

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1828
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
HARNESSING OF RAIN WATER FOR CULTIVATION
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has initiated any steps to educate the farmers regarding harnessing of rain water for cultivation ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof ;
- (c) Whether the Government is providing any financial assistance/subsidy/ incentive to the farmers for the purpose; and
- (d) If so, the details therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)to(d): The need and importance of harnessing rain water has been stressed in` the National Water Policy and National Agricultural Policy. The Government of India is implementing large number of schemes of watershed development in the country. Harnessing of Rain water and soil moisture conservation are main objectives of these schemes. The main schemes of Government of India are:

1. Ministry of Agriculture 1) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)

2) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR) 3)Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) 4)Reclamation of Alkaline Soils (RAS) 5)Watershed Development Fund (WDF)

II Ministry of Rural Development

1)Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) 2)Desert Development Programme (DPP) 3)Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

In all these schemes, a component of training to the farmers exists, under which the farmers are trained in watershed technologies including harnessing of rain water. Entire training expenses are borne under respective scheme.

Further, provision of financial and technical assistance has been made for harnessing rain water under the Natural Resource Management/Development component of the schemes. The major watershed programmes provide for as much as 95% assistance for the community oriented activities and for SC/ST farmers and 90% assistance for individual oriented activities other than SC/ST.